

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Maria Wessel, Groundfish Management Biologist
Elisa Russ, Groundfish Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 424-3212
Fax: (907) 424-3235

Cordova Office
P.O. Box 669
Cordova, AK. 99574

Date Issued: 10/24/2012

**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA E
PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENS TO POT GEAR
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-15-12**

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area (Registration Area E) parallel Pacific cod season will open to vessels fishing pot gear at **12:00 noon October 29, 2012**. The parallel Pacific cod season is established by emergency order (EO) to coincide with the season dates and gear sectors set by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the Pacific cod season in the adjacent federal Central Gulf of Alaska Regulatory Area (CGOA). NMFS announced today that directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using pot gear in the CGOA will open effective 12:00 noon October 29.

Fishermen are reminded that they must possess a valid ADF&G 2012 PWS non-exclusive area groundfish registration in order to participate in the PWS parallel Pacific cod fishery and a vessel may only be registered to fish with a single gear type. Participants using pot gear in parallel Pacific cod fisheries must have a functioning, NMFS approved, vessel monitoring system (VMS) as described at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak_faqs.html.

Regulations protecting two Steller sea lion rookeries within PWS remain in effect. Directed fishing for all groundfish species is closed in waters within 3 nautical miles of Seal Rocks (60° 09.78' N. lat., 146° 50.30' W. long.); and Wooded Island (Fish Island) (59° 52.90' N. lat., 147° 20.65' W. long.).

Bycatch, in aggregate, may not exceed 20% by weight of the directed groundfish species aboard a vessel. Regulation 5 AAC 28.265 requires that all rockfish be retained and any rockfish in excess of the 10% bycatch allowance be reported as a bycatch overage on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the state.

-end-